

manifold inconveniences and expense, all of which would have to be borne by suitors, and would probably be quite out of proportion to any possible benefit to be obtained, if indeed any benefit at all would result from the proposed change.

ALIENS ACT STATISTICS.

The third annual report of His Majesty's inspector under the Aliens Act, 1905, which deals with the year 1908, contains some very interesting information. During last year the total number of alien passengers who landed in the United Kingdom was 570,168 of whom 399,289 came from ports in Europe or the Mediterranean Sea, while the total number who embarked was 542,979, of whom 419,767 were destined for ports in Europe or the Mediterranean. It will thus be seen that the arrivals exceeded the departures by 27,189, the corresponding figure for 1907 being 34,954. It is curious to note that, whereas in 1907 the European traffic shewed an excess of arrivals of 144,811, and the extra-European traffic an excess of departures of 109,857, in 1908, as regards the European traffic, the passengers outwards exceeded the passengers inwards by 20,478, while, on the other hand, as regards the extra-European traffic, the passengers inwards exceeded the passengers outwards by no less than 47,667.

Leave to land was refused by the immigration officers to 724 persons in all—to 456 on the ground of want of means, to 267 on medical grounds, and to one passenger who returned to the United Kingdom in contravention of an expulsion order. Against these refusals there were 321 appeals, and, of these, 112 were successful, and of the 612 persons to whom leave to land was finally refused, 189 were Russians, 109 Italians, 96 Greeks and Ottomans, and 93 French. As compared with 1907, the number of original rejections shews a decrease of 251, and the number of final rejections of 190.

Perhaps the most important part of the report is that section